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FOOD INFORMATION

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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No. 88-f

Subject: Use of Grain Sorghums and Sudan Grass for Feed

Field Distribution: War Board members, Extension Editors, AAA Committeemen in Nebraska, Kansas, Okla., Texas, Colorado; OD Marketing Reports Chiefs, FSA Information Chiefs.

Suggested Use: Background information.

The unavoidable delay in spring operations due to adverse weather can result in a serious shortage of feed next fall and winter. Farmers should be urged to plant grain sorghums and Sudan grass on acreage they originally intended for oats and other crops which they are now unable to seed. Grain sorghums may be seeded after best planting dates for other feed crops have passed. In addition, grain sorghums can withstand more drought than other feed grains. One acre of grain sorghums will produce an average of about 700 to 800 pounds of grain and provide about the same feed value as similar amounts of other feed grain crops.

Because of the late spring season, many farmers have been unable to seed adequate acreages to oats, corn, and other crops. March, 1944, was the wettest March in 20 years, and we had 45 percent more than normal rainfall during April. For the nation as a whole, the BAE reports, farmers on May 1 had completed less of their spring work than in many years.

In areas where hay production is inadequate to meet needs, farmers desiring to seed forage sorghums or Sudan grass should make certain of their seed supplies at once. These "catch" crops may be seeded after the best planting dates for other forage crops. In case of drought forage sorghums and Sudan grass are generally recognized as the best emergency feed crops.

What You Can Do:

Farmers should be encouraged to contact their seed dealers immediately to obtain or make arrangements for supplies of sorghum seed. Present seed stocks of most principal grain sorghum varieties are adequate. Seed dealers and handlers normally convert their surplus sorghum seed supplies to feed about this time of year. Therefore, farmers should be urged to place orders immediately to insure individual supplies.

Present supplies of Sudan grass and forage sorghum seeds are inadequate in many areas. Farmers should be encouraged to determine immediately if seed is available and if not, the land should be devoted to other use.

Appeals That Can Be Used:

*** A good supply of feed is essential if we are to maintain an adequate livestock production.

*** For delayed plantings sorghums for grain and forage will be the best insurance against crop loss due to late dry summer weather.

*** Use of forage in livestock feeding makes our limited supplies of feed grains and protein concentrates go farther.

